

American Society for Bone and Mineral Research; American Society for Clinical Nutrition; American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics; American Society for Reproductive Medicine; and

American Society of Addiction Medicine; American Society of Adults with Pseudo-Obstruction, Inc.; American Society of Clinical Nutrition; American Society of Hematology; American Society of Nephrology; American Thoracic Society; American Urological Association; Americans for Medical Progress; Arthritis Foundation; Association for Medical School Pharmacology; Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology; Association of Academic Health Centers; Association of Academic Physiatrists; Association of American Cancer Institutes; Association of American Medical Colleges; Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges; Association of Behavioral Sciences and Medical Education; Association of Departments of Family Medicine; Association of Medical and Graduate Departments of Biochemistry; Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairmen; Association of Pathology Chairs; Association of Professors of Dermatology; Association of Professors of Medicine; and

Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine; Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry; Association of Schools of Public Health; Association of Subspecialty Professors; Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine; Association of University Radiologists; American Urogynecologic Society; Center for Ulcer Research and Education Foundation; Citizens for Public Action; Cooley's Anemia Foundation; Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America; Cystic Fibrosis Foundation; Dean Thiel Foundation; Digestive Disease National Coalition; East Carolina University School of Medicine; Ehlers-Danlos National Foundation; Emory University School of Medicine; The Endocrine Society; Epilepsy Foundation of America; Foundation for Ichthyosis and Related Skin Types; Gay Men's Health Crisis; General Clinical Research Center Program Directors' Association; Gluten Intolerance Group; and

Hemochromatosis Research Foundation; Hepatitis Foundation International; Inova Institute of Research and Education; Institute for Asthma and Allergy; International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders; Jeffrey Modell Foundation; Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology; Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International; Lawson Wilkins Pediatric Endocrine Society; Lupus Foundation of America, Inc.; Medical Dermatology Society; Mount Sinai Medical Center; National Caucus of Basic Biomedical Science Chairs; National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare; National Health Council; National Hemophilia Foundation; National Marfan Foundation; National Multiple Sclerosis Society; National Organization for Rare Disorders; National Osteoporosis Foundation; National Perinatal Association; National Tuberculosis Sclerosis Association; National Vitiligo Foundation, Inc.; National Vulvodynia Association; and

North American Society of Pacing and Electrophysiology; Oley Foundation for Home Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition; The Orton Dyslexia Society; Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation; Parkinson's Action Network; PXE International; RESOLVE; Schepens Eye Research Institute; Scleroderma Research Foundation; Society for Academic Emergency Medicine; Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Re-

search; Society for Inherited Metabolic Disorders; Society for Investigative Dermatology; Society for Pediatric Research; Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc.; Society of Gynecologic Oncologists; Society of Medical College Directors of Continuing Medical Education; Society of University Urologists; St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; Tourette Syndrome Association, Inc.; United Ostomy Association; United Scleroderma Foundation; University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry; Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society; and Yale University School of Medicine.

TRIBUTE TO THE SENIORS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IN HONOR OF OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 1999

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating National Older Americans Month in the District of Columbia. District of Columbia seniors will come to the National Arboretum in the District of Columbia on Tuesday, May 18th for an afternoon of information about the programs Congress provides for senior citizens, for entertainment, and for lunch. Our senior citizens have earned this information and celebration I have for them each year at a place of interest in the District. We have celebrated National Older Americans Month at the National Cathedral, the FDR Memorial, the National Zoo, museums, and similarly interesting settings, some of which our seniors rarely get to visit.

The growing number of senior citizens in the District, one third of whom are over 80, have contributed to the best days of the nation's capital. As young people, they helped build this city to its strongest point, and as seniors today, they are helping to bring revitalization to the District.

Senior citizens in my District want the 106th Congress to know that the Social Security and Medicare programs have done more to make their senior years secure and healthy than any programs ever enacted by the Congress. Today, the Social Security program alone has taken one out of every three elderly Americans out of poverty and has rescued 60% of elderly women from poverty. In 1997, almost half of all elderly Americans would have had incomes below the poverty line without their Social Security benefits.

Today's seniors have fought hard to preserve their Social Security. Those who worry most about Social Security are younger baby boomers and their children. This Congress must make sure that the progressive benefit structure with annual increases is available for generations to come.

Far more problematic and worrisome for the District's seniors is the future of Medicare. At my Senior Legislative Day, I want to focus my own constituents on the immediate problems of Medicare, which runs out of money in 2008. Seniors, like other Americans, are being directed to HMOs in order to allow the program to achieve cost savings. Yet, already, we see

many of the HMOs dropping seniors because the federal government has been unwilling to fund sufficiently these HMO senior programs. We have not met the challenge of doing what must be done for Medicare—making the savings necessary to save the program while assuring seniors that the benefits are sufficient to make the programs worth saving. Passage of the President's Patients' Bill of Rights is a crucial part of this effort.

On May 18th, the District's seniors will also be discussing the intolerable costs of prescription drugs not covered by Medicare. The Congress has not yet faced the challenges of the increasing use of costly medicines which are being used instead of more costly invasive procedures. The burden of these costs has been put entirely on seniors. It is a burden they cannot bear and should not bear.

Medicare has been a virtually universal program, with virtually all Americans covered, regardless of income. The need for healthcare tends to increase with age. It is certain that Medicare has saved and lengthened millions of American lives. On May 18th, at my Seniors Legislative Day, I intend to assure the seniors of the District of Columbia that I will have no greater priority than preserving Medicare. I ask the 106th Congress to help me keep that promise.

HONORING EDWARD ABRAMOWITZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about an extraordinary man of medicine, Dr. Edward Abramowitz, Attending Physician, Division of Cardiology, Department of Internal Medicine at Long Island College Hospital. Dr. Abramowitz is being honored on May 22nd by the Long Island College Hospital Board of Regents for his commitment to quality patient care and his medical leadership.

Born in New York City, Dr. Abramowitz received his B.S. degree from City College of the City University of New York and his M.D. from the Faculty of Medicine, Copenhagen University, Denmark in 1975. After graduation, he did rotating internships in OB/GYN, Surgery and Psychiatry in the Danish health care system.

Returning to New York, Dr. Abramowitz finished an Internal Medicine internship at Maimonides Medical Center and went on to complete a two-year internal medicine residency at Long Island College Hospital. In 1981, he completed a two-year fellowship in Cardiology at LICH and established a private practice in Cardiology and Internal Medicine. In 1991, Dr. Abramowitz was one of the founding members of Diagnostic Cardiology Associates, a premier diagnostic testing center for cardiovascular disease.

A longtime resident of Cobble Hill, Dr. Abramowitz was a member of the Board of Directors of the Brooklyn Heights Center for Counseling. Board Certified in Internal Medicine, Dr. Abramowitz is an active member of many professional organizations, including the American College of Cardiology, the American

College of Physicians and the New York Cardiological Society. At Long Island College Hospital, Dr. Abramowitz has been an elected member of the Medical Executive Committee since 1989, serving as Secretary of the Medical Board from 1993 to 1996. He was elected Second Vice President of the Board in 1996, the position he currently holds. Dr. Abramowitz was a long-time member of the Ethics Committee and is a member of the Joint Coordinating Council of the Board of Regents. He is also Chairman of the Credentials Committee.

Dr. Abramowitz has always enjoyed teaching medical students and residents and is currently an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn (Downstate).

Dr. Abramowitz currently resides in Staten Island with Noel C. Bickford, Vice-Chair of the LICH Board of Regents and their two children, Rebecca (Becky), age 7, and Eric, age 5.

IN RECOGNITION OF BLAIR
COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION DAY

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 1999

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to designate today, Monday, May 17, 1999 as Blair County Community Action Day.

On August 20, 1999 we will celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the signing of the Economic Opportunity Act by President Lyndon Johnson. In October of 1964 Blair County Community Action was chartered as a Community Action Agency. Over the course of these past 35 years, BCCA has assisted thousands of economically challenged Blair County residents. Some examples of these types of assistance include providing residential weatherization, intervention services for utility assistance, family and individual counseling, employment and training programs and other personal and family growth and improvement opportunities.

Blair County Community Action is the very epitome of grassroots organization and community empowerment. They have provided much of the impetus for the development of several programs which now operate as separate agencies including Day Care Services, Legal Aid, and Meals on Wheels. They have been leaders in the development of the Target Area Groups of the 1960's and 1970's which led to the creation of today's modern advocacy groups and neighborhood planning and organization.

I am proud to honor Blair County Community Action for all the work they have done to provide opportunities for the citizens of Blair County.

COMMENDING KATE MEHR—WHITE
HOUSE FELLOW

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 1999

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend a public servant of the highest cal-

iber—Kate Mehr of Amherst, Massachusetts, who currently serves as a White House Fellow.

Since 1965, the White House Fellowship Program has called upon outstanding citizens, like Ms. Mehr, who have demonstrated excellence in community service, leadership, and professional achievement. It is the country's most prestigious fellowship for public service and leadership development. The selection process for White House Fellows is very competitive and is conducted by a Commission appointed by the President. Every year, there are 500 to 800 applicants nationwide for 11 to 19 fellowships. Ms. Mehr has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to public service through her involvement with many community-based organizations. Her service and commitment on behalf of the people of Massachusetts have earned her the honor of participating in this prestigious fellowship.

Ms. Mehr earned her BA in political science from Amherst College and an MPA from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. She is the executive director of the Massachusetts Service Alliance in Boston, a statewide non-profit group. Its mission is to strengthen Massachusetts's communities through service and volunteerism, running over 200 service programs including AmeriCorps and after-school programs. During her tenure, the Alliance has increased state support for services by 750 percent. Her involvement with youth causes in Massachusetts is extensive and impressive. For example, the Governor appointed her coordinator of The Massachusetts Summit: The Promise of Our Youth, the follow up to the President's Summit, and served as a founding member of the Massachusetts, Legislative Children's Caucus. Ms. Mehr was also a victim-witness advocate, tutored a young Cambodian immigrant and was a volunteer basketball coach at a local YMCA. She taught government and history, and coached basketball and golf at the high school level.

As a White House Fellow, Ms. Mehr has been assigned to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), where she has been involved in several important hunger initiatives. She is responsible for developing and implementing the Initiative on Community Food Security, which will coordinate the resources of the USDA to assist communities in developing an infrastructure to fight hunger. Additionally, Ms. Mehr serves as a policy advisor to Secretary Dan Glickman on hunger policy and international food assistance programs. She also is planning a USDA Summit on Hunger for the fall of 1999.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Kate Mehr's remarkable record of professional excellence and community service, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting her hard work and good citizenship.

A PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING
THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE OHIO VETERANS OF FOREIGN
WARS

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 1999

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following to my colleagues:

Whereas, the Veterans of the United States have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the preservation of the United States of America; and,

Whereas, on June 18th, 1999 the Department of Ohio, Veterans of Foreign Wars will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary and,

Whereas, the citizens of Ohio and the United States of America owe the Veterans of the United States a great deal of gratitude for their undying loyalty and dedication to the Union, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Ohio on 100 years of service.

HONORING DR. OTTO MULLER

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 17, 1999

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my constituent, Dr. Otto F. Muller, a talented cardiologist who is retiring after forty years of service in the medical field. Highlights of Dr. Muller's career include ten years of service as the Chief of the Cardiovascular Clinic at Philadelphia General Hospital; and thirty five years as the Director of Research and Education, Medicine, and Cardiology at Mercy Catholic Medical Center. Most recently, Dr. Muller practiced with the Kelly Cardiovascular Group. Early in his career, Dr. Muller received fellowship and investigator grants from the American Heart Association, and served as its President from 1980-1982.

Heart disease is America's number one killer, and stroke is the number three killer. The state of Pennsylvania, in which Dr. Muller practices, ranks fifteenth in the United States for heart disease deaths. More than one in five Americans suffer from cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of disability, at an estimated cost of \$287 billion in medical expenses and lost productivity. Moreover, the World Health Organization predicts that within twenty five years, heart disease will surpass pneumonia as the leading cause of death and disability worldwide.

I personally understand the dedication of doctors who are committed to battling cardiovascular disease. Three years ago, I underwent a successful coronary artery bypass graft after blockage of a coronary artery was detected during a routine screening. I was able to return to my full schedule of activities following the surgery, and my cardiologist placed me on a regimen of proper diet and exercise which has helped me to avoid further surgery. I applaud Dr. Muller for his dedication to his practice. For forty years, he has been a leader in the fight to eradicate this deadly disease.